envy, jealousy, and revenge, derive their main force and motive to action from the circumstance that it is possible to inflict suffering, mental and bodily ? Had man been placed in a state of things in which, it was not possible for him to produce painful sensations or feelings, the malign affections would not have reigned with such fury as they do in a world so constituted a.s to admit of their being gratified. It is the very fact that our fellow-men are liable to be injured, which is the prompting occasion of scandal, and of the fearful contests and fiery funds which cannot be extinguished except in blood. It appears, that if there are incidental advantages arising from the existence of suffering, there are also accompanying disadvantages, and the.sc latter, we fear, through tie wickedness of the race, are very considerably the greater. At least every reflecting mind will acknowledge, that, when the elements to be weighed ami measured are virtue and vice, it will be difficult to get proper balances, and a true standard of measure;* and difficult, above, all things, to say what is the actual residue on the one side or the other, after the proper subtractions have been made.

"If," says the same author, "the inhabitant, of some other planet were to witness the kindness ami solicitude of u father for his child in his long watchfulness and love, and were then to see the same father force the child, notwithstanding its cries, to swallow some bitter potion, he would surely conclude, not that the father was cruel, but that the child was to derive benefit from the potion which he loathed/' This explanation is corning' still nearer the truth, but is not pursued to its proper con.sequences. It proceeds on the idea that pain in u medicine for one who is labouring under disease, and *that* a disease in the very nature of man. What a picture—what a dark picture is

thereby given of our world as labouring under a fearful malady ! Prosecute the idea, and it will conduct us to truths from which many shrink back when they are close upon them ; it will appear that God is conducting his government as toward u world distempered in itself, and in a state displeasing to him. JWn not the extent of the remedy, too, prove the extent of the di«-

* The reader wiy remember the language of Burke-—'* Weighing, an it worn, *m* scales hung in a shop of horrors BO much actual crime ngamst< H» much contingfnt advantage, and after putting in and out weights, declaring that the balance WUH on the side of the*adv:mtngo."

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